

Chicago Eagle.

"INDEPENDENT IN ALL THINGS. NEUTRAL IN NONE."

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HARRISON TO BLAME

For the Non-Enforcement of City Fire Ordinances Applicable to All Chicago Theaters.

With Nothing Else to Do but Enforce the Laws, He Enforced None of Them.

The Mayor Should Be Held Responsible for the Loss of Nearly a Thousand Lives.

Even After the Disaster He Says that the Iroquois Theater Was Chicago's Safest.

If the Iroquois Theater Was the Safest One, the Others Were Pretty Bad.

The expected has happened. For over a year The Eagle has been calling attention, nearly every week, to the fact that Mayor Harrison was not enforcing the fire ordinances applicable to theaters.

Even in last week's paper, printed before the Iroquois holocaust, The Eagle, under the heading of "Anarchy Is Mayor," contained the following item:

What about the investigation of the condition of the theaters? The public has no more knowledge now than it had before the trouble with the graft committee whether all these buildings are fireproof or not.

The Eagle has over and over again called attention to the carelessness of the Harrison administration in this regard.

No attention was ever paid to the matter by the Mayor or his appointees.

To many at the City Hall the fire ordinance applicable to theaters appears to have been used as a club to compel the theaters to give up its best seats on free passes to City Hall people.

The Mayor, since his first election nearly seven years ago, has never bothered himself about enforcing city ordinances.

He has been content to draw \$10,000 a year for the first job, public or private, that he has ever held in his life.

Being a man without any private business or profession to attend to, one would think that he, of all others, would have time to devote to his official duties sufficient to see that the ordinances, safeguarding the lives of our citizens, were properly enforced.

But he has enforced none of them. Whenever the City Council has taken a vacation, he has left town.

He loves to loaf.

When the Iroquois fire was burning up almost a thousand of his fellow citizens, the Mayor was "hunting in Oklahoma."

Under this man Harrison's disgraceful administration the subordinate bureaus of the city government have been permitted to run themselves.

Graft has held sway, and holds sway in every department of the city.

When an election approaches, the Mayor sets up a yell that "the streets belong to the people" and gets re-elected under false promises.

After election he relaxes into his cold-blooded sloth and gives up the streets to thugs and the people to the flames!

He is the only Mayor in all Christendom under whose administration decent burial has been denied to the honored dead.

Under the reign of this demagogue as Mayor, we have seen, within the past month, funerals stopped, hearses attacked in the streets, and mourners compelled to walk to funerals, for lack of police protection.

Returning from his "hunting" bum

to Oklahoma on New Year's day, this cold blooded creature had the effrontery to say in an interview in the public press, about the theater which no other Mayor would have permitted to open:

"The Iroquois Theater was the safest in the city."

What an admission!

If the Iroquois Theater was the safest in the city what of the others?

Why were they permitted to run?

Mayor Harrison was informed by the Building Commissioner, George Williams, months ago that the theaters were violating the laws and ordinances.

Did Harrison act upon this report before the Iroquois holocaust?

No. He shirked his duty entirely and turned the whole report over to the City Council!

The City Council was not elected to enforce the laws.

Harrison was elected to enforce them.

What then was his object in handing the report over to the City Council?

Did he wish to have the City Council repeal the ordinances which the theaters were violating?

It certainly looks like it.

If Chief of Police O'Neill made a report to the Mayor to the effect that saloons were violating the law, or that hand books were running in some places, would the Mayor send the report to the City Council?

The truth appears to be that Harrison did not want to enforce the ordinances in regard to theaters.

If he had he could have done so.

The following sections of the building ordinance of the city of Chicago were violated in the construction of the Iroquois Theater. The Harrison administration permitted these violations:

Section 108 of the ordinance passed March 28, 1888:

Frontage of Class IV., seating over 800. Buildings of Class IV. of greater seating capacity than 800, and all buildings of Class V., shall face upon three open spaces, of which at least one shall be a public street, while the two others, if not streets, must be public or private alleys of a width of not less than ten feet each.

The Iroquois Theater practically had but one legal face—that on the alley to the north. The entrance was on Randolph street, but that entrance practically was independent of the theater—simply a long lobby connecting the theater with the street, the theater proper being situated at the rear of the other buildings. The third frontage required does not exist, although at present there is a vacant space west of the theater (a sheer wall broken only by big stage doors) and on this space an office building is to stand.

Section 182—Construction of the Stage.

The framing of the flooring of the very stage upon which movable scenery is to be used shall be of iron or steel. The stage floor may be of wood, but not less than three and three-fourths inches thick. The entire floor construction and floor of fly galleries and rigging lofts and all

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REMEMBER!



This Is the Mayor Who Did Not Enforce the Building and Fire Ordinances, and Who Appointed Politicians to the Head of the Building Department in Violation of the Law.

Section 1108 of the ordinance creating the Department of Buildings, says: "There is hereby created the office of Commissioner of Buildings, who shall be the head of said Department of Buildings, and SHALL BE AN EXPERIENCED ARCHITECT OR BUILDER."

Now whom did Carter H. Harrison appoint and hold as head of this most important department for six years of his term?

James McAndrews and Peter Klobbassa, neither of whom was either an architect or a builder.

Mr. McAndrews was a most agreeable gentleman and courteous official, but he was not an architect or a builder. His business experience was his association with his father in the metal business. He was appointed Commissioner of Buildings because Mr. Harrison needed his political assistance.

Mr. Klobbassa was never an architect nor builder. He was a policeman in 1872; a clerk in the Custom House for many years; a representative in the legislature, City Treasurer and Alderman. His only "outside business" was "real estate and insurance." He was appointed by Mr. Harrison because of his alleged control of the Polish vote.

Harrison is the only Mayor who has persistently violated the ordinance creating this office. Here are the records of the Mayors and Building Commissioners for the past twenty-five years.

Mayor.	Building Commissioner.	Occupation.
Harrison Senior, 1879-1887	Alexander Kirkland	Architect
John A. Roche, 1887-1889	W. J. Edbrooke	Architect
Dewitt C. Cregier, 1889-1891	John M. Dunphy	Builder
Hempstead Washburne, 1891-1893	Louis O'Neill	Builder
Harrison Senior, 1893-1895	Andrew J. Toole	Builder
John P. Hopkins, 1895-1897	S. B. Elsendrath	Architect
George B. Swift, 1897-1897	Joseph Downey	Builder
Carter H. Harrison, 1897-1901	James McAndrews	Politics
1901-1902	Peter Klobbassa	Politics
1902-1903	C. H. Harrison	Politics
1903	George Williams	Builder

During the Klobbassa administration, St. Luke's Sanitarium, the Lincoln Hotel and other places burned up with great loss of life. But when the great public outcry against his holding the Building Commissionership went up, Klobbassa resigned that job and was promptly appointed to another job as member of the Local Board of Improvements—salary \$4,500 per year. He is there yet.

During Harrison's non-administration the Orpheum Theater burned, the whole place being destroyed in a few minutes. Fortunately there was no performance at the time. If there had been, 1,800 lives would have been lost at least.

After every fatal fire under the present Harrison administration, the City Council has gone into hysterics with amendments to the building ordinance. The published records of the Council proceedings bear this fact out.

When the excitement blew over things went on as usual.

So they will go on now.

The Iroquois victims will remain unavenged and will soon be forgotten by Mayor Harrison and his gang of cheap Aldermen. But 600 new made graves and the same number of desolated homes will continue to cry for vengeance!

Following are the provisions of the Illinois laws and the charter of the city of Chicago under which the Mayor is responsible:

General Duties—Sec. 10: "He shall perform all such duties as may be prescribed by law or by the city ordinances, AND SHALL TAKE CARE THAT THE LAWS AND ORDINANCES ARE FAITHFULLY ENFORCED."—Start & Curtis statutes, chap. 24, on Cities, etc., art. II, par. 24, page 682.

Misfeasance of Mayor or Other Officer—Sec. 14: "In case the Mayor or other municipal officer shall at any time be guilty of a palpable omission of duty, or shall willfully and corruptly be guilty of oppression, malconduct, or misfeasance in the discharge of the duties of his office, he shall be liable to indictment in any court of competent jurisdiction, and, on conviction, shall be fined in a sum not exceeding \$1,000, and the court in which such conviction shall be had shall enter an order removing such officer from office."

One of the Mayor's pals, Alderman Mayor, does not share in the Mayor's idea that the Iroquois was the safest theater in Chicago.

Here is what Mayor said about the Iroquois, after the fire:

"This theater should never have been allowed to open because the law commands that in every theater the gallery shall be provided with a separate stairway leading directly to the street. Here the gallery patrons were obliged to use the same exits as the balcony patrons."

A cheaper or meaner body than the Chicago Common Council it would be hard to find anywhere. Not a word of protest was uttered at Monday night's meeting of that body over the failure of the mayor to enforce the fire ordinance governing theaters. Not a single alderman had the courage to present a resolution impeaching the mayor. Yet every citizen of Chicago would have said Amen! to such a resolution.

The mayor has been cleared by Herman and Minwagan, anyway.

Whenever Mayor Harrison is accus-

ed of palpable neglect of duty he appoints a Council Committee to whitewash him.

All the Council investigators on earth will not bring back to life the gas of our people burned through Harrison's neglect to enforce the laws.

The idea of the mayor and aldermen investigating their own shortcomings is as disgraceful as it is Harrisonian.

Now for the whitewash!

Is Coroner Traeger trying to whitewash the mayor? It certainly looks like it.

Coroner Traeger must remember that his first duty is to the public—not to Harrison.

The mayor's friends want his case considered by a special grand jury, composed of Harrison men.

The daily newspapers may excuse their Mayoral pet, but the thousands

of homes into which the shadow of Death has been cast by official negligence will always keep alive the truth with regard to him.

Six hundred new made graves are crying for vengeance against this city administration. Will they cry in vain?

The Iroquois holocaust is now a nine days wonder and the Harrison boom for president can bob up again.

What a farce! Harrison appointed the Aldermanic Investigating Committee!

Harrison's Civil Service fraud has ruined our Fire Department.

Harrison and Blood!

It is the opinion of many people that any one who lost a relative in the Iroquois Theater fire should sue the city for damages. A city which will elect and re-elect such a non-law-enforcing Mayor as Harrison must and should pay the penalty.

HARRISON WARNED.

The Chicago Eagle, Over and Over Again, Called His Attention to Fire Traps.

The Following Extracts from the Files of This Paper Recall the Damning Facts.

How the Mayor Can Hope to Escape His Just Punishment Is a Mystery.

He Should Be Arrested Under the Charter Provision for Not Enforcing the Law,

And Should Be Removed from Office Upon Being Found Guilty in a Court.

Harrison has been warned often enough, that his non-enforcement of the fire ordinances was a menace to public life.

That awful fire trap, the Columbia theater, which Harrison permitted to run wide open, burned from pit to roof in fifteen minutes on Monroe street. Fortunately there was no performance at the time and 1,000 lives that would surely have been lost otherwise, were saved.

Of course the City Council at once made a bluff at amending the fire ordinances.

(See Council proceedings.)

But the non-enforcement of the ordinances by the mayor still continued.

The Orpheum Theater, opposite the city hall, on Washington street, burned from pit to roof, under Harrison's administration. Fortunately no audience was in it at the time. But the attention of the public was called to Harrison's non-enforcement of the fire and building ordinances. A public howl; official hypocritical cant from Harrison, and nothing done—as usual.

The St. Luke's Sanitarium, 21st street and Wabash avenue, burned. Twenty-nine lives were lost, including a member of the Board of Aldermen.

More amendments to the fire ordinance.

More apathy and neglect of duty on the part of the mayor.

The Lincoln Hotel on Madison street burned. Twenty-two lives lost. The ordinance violated. More howl. More non-enforcement by the mayor.

These things showed Mayor Harrison's laxity in a convincing way.

The Chicago Eagle frequently called Mayor Harrison's attention to the non-enforcement of the laws governing theaters, as our readers will recollect and as the following extracts from our files plainly prove:

From the Chicago Eagle, January 25, 1902:

Are the theaters of Chicago properly safeguarded in case of fire?

This question is of importance to the public, for the reason that there is a general belief that the city ordinances are being violated in regard to overcrowding and that the lives of the people are thereby endangered by the proprietors of nearly all the theaters in this city.

Chicago Eagle, January 25, 1902: There is but one fireproof theater in the city and perhaps a practical test would prove it to be a fireproof oven.

Chicago Eagle, January 25, 1902: There will be a holocaust in one of our Chicago theaters some day and this rotten city administration will be blamed for it.

Chicago Eagle, January 25, 1902: Almost every night sees aisles full of seats in Chicago theaters in defiance of the law.

Chicago Eagle, January 25, 1902: How much do the Chicago theaters "give up" over at the city hall that they are permitted to violate the law with impunity?

Chicago Eagle, January 25, 1902: Human life is very cheap in Chicago. Chicago theaters imperil hundreds of lives every night.

Chicago Eagle, February 1, 1902:

There will be a holocaust in one of our theaters some day and this rotten city administration can be blamed for it.

Chicago Eagle, February 8, 1902: Wait till one of the Chicago theaters burn up. Then you will hear a howl about the enforcement of ordinances. The best way to avoid the howl and save life is to enforce them now.

Chicago Eagle, February 8, 1902: There will be a holocaust in one of our Chicago theaters some day and this rotten city administration can be blamed for it.

Chicago Eagle, February 8, 1902: There is but one fireproof theater in this city and perhaps a practical test would prove it to be a fireproof oven.

Chicago Eagle, February 15, 1902: The sale of "standing room" in Chicago theaters must be abolished.

Chicago Eagle, February 15, 1902: The city authorities have been forewarned about the dangerous condition of Chicago theaters. If anything occurs they will be held responsible for it.

Chicago Eagle, February 15, 1902: Chicago ought to have safe theaters.

Chicago Eagle, February 15, 1902: The building department does not enforce the ordinances governing theaters.

Chicago Eagle, February 15, 1902: The next Chicago theater to burn will probably be filled with people.

Chicago Eagle, February 22, 1902: No Chicago theater burned last week. Consequently no lives were lost.

Chicago Eagle, February 22, 1902: City officials who neglect to enforce the anti-standing room theater ordinance should be indicted.

Chicago Eagle, February 22, 1902: Chicago will furnish a fire horror one of these days that will appal the world.

Chicago Eagle, February 22, 1902: Chicago theater managers have adopted a new scheme. They sell much of their "standing room" for the galleries thus increasing the risk of human life.

Chicago Eagle, March 1, 1902: How many of our best theaters would withstand the dropping of a match.

Chicago Eagle, July 5, 1902: The next big fire horror for which the Harrison administration will be held accountable, together with his building department, will be in some of the theaters of Chicago. These places of amusement are now in worse shape than at any time in the history of the city. They are being nightly packed to the doors, the exits are crowded, there are seats in the aisles and standing room in the rear, is occupied to such an extent as to encroach upon the safety of people occupying seats.

Chicago Eagle, October 17, 1903: The Eagle is of the opinion that the La Sahe is not the only theater which should be subjected to a rigid inspection by the city authorities. In addition there should be firemen on duty